

R E M A R K S

The specification was amended to delete a reference to a claim number on page 9.

Claim 1 was amended by the inclusion of the features of claim 5.

The amendment to the last clause in claim 11 wherein "lies" was replaced with --is higher- is supported by the last paragraph of page 16 of the specification.

Claim 15 was amended by the inclusion of the features of claim 18.

The other claim amendments involve editorial revisions.

New claim 22 recites a feature of original claim 18.

Applicants are pleased to note that claims 5 to 7, 9 to 14 and 18 to 21 were considered to be allowable for the reasons set forth on page 5, line 11 to page 6, line 10 of the Office Action.

Claims 1 to 3, 8, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Shigeru (JP 10-002730) for the reasons set forth on pages 2 to 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 4 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable (obvious) over Shigeru (JP 10-002730) in view of Florman (USP 6,480,802) for the reasons set forth on pages 4 to 5 of the Office Action.

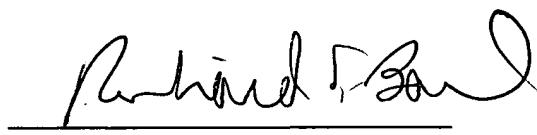
The prior art rejections are moot in view of the present claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is requested. Allowance is solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enc.: PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME